

Police

Mission. The mission of the Police Department is to do everything within its power to provide protection, arrest lawbreakers, and to be of service to all citizens within the community in a professional and ethical manner.

Overview. The Police Department seeks to maintain a safe environment for all residents of Wichita. This is accomplished through aggressive crime prevention activities, diligent community policing and neighborhood involvement, swift response to calls for service, and determined criminal investigation and apprehension activities. Services are provided to each neighborhood beat by six police officers and one specially trained community police officer.

The Department is organized into three Divisions: Field Services, Investigations and Support Services. Patrol officers, accounted for in the Field Services Division, work from four patrol bureaus in Wichita, each with a community police sub-station. In addition to beat officers and community policing officers, Field Services personnel include Special Community Action Teams (SCAT) in each bureau as well as a cadre of School Resource Officers engaged in prevention and mentoring activities at local schools.

The Investigations Division is responsible for all follow-up after a crime has been reported. The Division is organized functionally around types of criminal activity, to enhance detective specialization and coordination. Sections include: Persons Crimes, which investigates murder, rape, and gang related offenses; Property Crimes, which works cases involving larceny, robbery, burglary, auto theft, forgery and fraud; and a Special Investigations section which focuses on narcotics, prostitution and alcohol offenses. The Division also operates the Police Laboratory and Property and Evidence facility, which provides evidence collection, analysis and storage services.

The Support Services Division performs a variety of ancillary activities, generally to support field personnel. The Special Services Bureau includes Planning and Research, Community Affairs, School Liaison, Fiscal Affairs and Court Liaison sections.

The Records Bureau includes SPIDER and data control sections; the Training Bureau is responsible for in-service and recruit training at both the Training Center and the Firearms Range; the Special Operations Bureau coordinates the activities of the Bomb Squad, the Honor Guard, Reserves, Chaplains and the Mounted Unit. In addition, this Bureau supervises the Traffic Section and the Air Section.

The Police Department is financed primarily from the General Fund. Some costs are offset by revenues, including reimbursements from the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office for a small portion of SPIDER costs; reimbursements from the State of Kansas for selected training costs, and other revenues from service charges.

Finance and Operations. The proposed budget for the Wichita Police Department continues funding for 634 commissioned positions, including the 141 added since 1995 as part of the Public Safety Initiative. The budget also adds eight grant funded School Resource Officers. The General Fund absorbed eighty-eight officers for which grant funds have expired in 1999. Another 24 will be funded from the General Fund beginning in mid – 2000.

Patrol activities are organized at the beat level, with the City divided into 36 beats. Each beat has a team of six beat officers who respond to neighborhood needs for service. In addition, a community police officer is assigned to each beat, tailoring police services to the specific needs of a particular beat and providing a direct link between neighborhood residents and the police department.



Each of the 36 patrol beats has an assigned community police officer, who interacts directly with the community and tailors police services to meet the specific needs of each neighborhood.

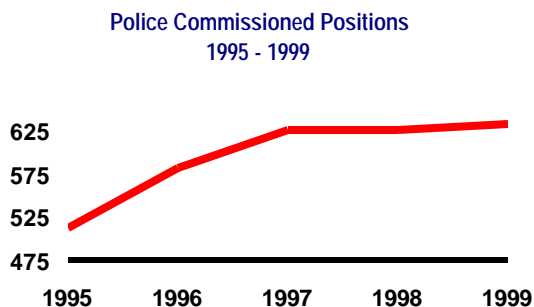
Each of the four patrol bureaus has a SCAT of eight officers. Teams direct efforts to improving the quality of neighborhoods by targeting police enforcement at specific areas of suspected criminal activity. The teams are often used to provide an additional police presence, supplementing beat officers.

Patrol services are coordinated through four neighborhood Police substations, one in each quadrant of Wichita. The substations are staffed 24 hours a day by a "badge on the floor," providing residents around the clock access to police assistance. Each substation serves as an office for over 100 police officers assigned to the bureau. In addition, numerous satellite offices have been made available to police officers, typically through partnerships with the private sector and with other public agencies.



Patrol services are provided through four Police sub-stations, located in each quadrant of the city. Over 100 officers work from each sub-station.

Field Services personnel also staff the Department's School Resource Officer program. Through the 2000-2001 school year, the program will assign one officer to the six public high schools in Wichita and 14 officers to the middle schools, eight who are funded with federal grants. In addition to providing classroom curriculum, the officers serve as role models to youth coordinating extra curricular activities, often targeted to at-risk youth. The 20 school resource officers, coupled with the five school liaison officers working with elementary school students, will provide an enhanced focus on the prevention of potential criminal behavior, by identifying at-risk youth and working with them to encourage positive behaviors.



During the last five years, a significant expansion of police positions was undertaken, initially establishing community policing in selected beats. The impressive results of the trial program led to community policing citywide. In 1995, a panel was formed to develop recommendations for enhancing police resources. The group's efforts resulted in the Public Safety Initiative, which was launched in October 1995. The Public Safety Initiative added 112 commissioned positions (and 15 support positions) over three years.

During the increase in commissioned strength from 1995 – 1998, the City defrayed a significant portion of the costs by maximizing federal grant dollars. However, the federal grant expired July 2000, increasing the level of General Fund dollars needed to support the Police Department.

Field Services personnel focus on both pro-active (crime

prevention activities) and re-active (responding promptly to calls for service) functions. The effectiveness can be measured in a variety of ways. Average response time, and several crime rate measures are used below to evaluate the effectiveness of field services personnel.

Selected Performance Measures				
	1998	1999	2000	2001
Total UCR* Part 1** crimes per 1,000 population	76	68	68	68
Average response time of emergency calls	4.8	4.4	4.4	4.4
Total UCR property crimes per 1,000 population served	69	62	62	62

*Uniform Crime Reporting

**Part 1 crimes include murder, rape, robbery, and assault

The Investigations Division handles follow up investigation of criminal offenses. This is accomplished through a staff of over 100 commissioned personnel, most of who are detectives. Most detectives are organized around nine functional areas: Homicide; Sex Crimes; Gang/Felony Assault; Exploited and Missing Children; Auto Theft; Financial Crimes; Burglary; Robbery/Assault; and Larceny. In addition, the department maintains Narcotics, Intelligence and Administrative sections.

The Investigations Division focuses on the clearance of criminal offenses. Clearance of a crime generally requires that a suspect be identified and/or that charges be filed against the suspect. Recent improvements in clearance rates are attributable to increased detectives added as a result of the Public Safety Initiative and to the enhanced focus due to the specialization of detectives.

Selected Performance Measures				
	1998	1999	2000	2001
Percent UCR part 1 crimes cleared	25%	26%	26%	26%
Percent of UCR violent crimes cleared	52%	60%	60%	60%
Percent of UCR property crimes cleared	23%	23%	23%	23%

Two units established in recent years are the Computer Crimes Section and the Financial Crimes Section. The City received grant funds from 1997 through 1999 to establish and train a two-person team to focus exclusively on the use of computers in criminal offenses. As a final component of the Public Safety Initiative, six detectives were added to increase the focus on forgery, embezzlement and fraud. The six detectives present fraud alert and traveling con man awareness programs to the community and presentations to the Wichita Area Retail Crime Counsel.

The Police Laboratory, a component of the Investigations Division, has fourteen crime scene investigators and supervisors who focus on evidence collection at crime scenes. Two chemists and two photographers perform evidence analysis. The Property and Evidence section is staffed with seven positions and is responsible for storing and transporting all evidence.

The Laboratory also includes two forensic examiners who analyze latent fingerprints. The Department utilizes a terminal networked to the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) at the Kansas Bureau of Investigation headquarters in Topeka. AFIS has proven to be invaluable in solving crimes and identifying criminals, resulting in higher workloads and clearance rates.

The Support Services Division provides a variety of functions and services. The Division is organized around four bureaus: Special Services, Records, Special Operations, and Training. The Internal Affairs section is also included in this Division.

Special Services includes Planning and Research, Community Affairs, School Liaison, Fiscal Affairs and Court Liaison sections.

Planning and Research, a staff of five, provides crime statistic analysis used to direct police resources at specifically identified problem areas. The four officers assigned to Community Affairs focus on crime prevention by providing free security audits to Wichita residents and businesses. The Fiscal Affairs section (five staff) is responsible for payroll, budgeting and all other departmental financial matters. The Court Liaison section coordinates the appearance of officers in court to mitigate officer inconvenience and overtime. The School Liaison section works with school children teaching the DARE program to area 5th graders.

The Records Bureau's 76 civilian positions are divided into two sections. The SPIDER section provides informational support, typically via radio, to beat officers, checking suspects for City warrants and other support. The remainder of the records staff provides clerical support in creating, transcribing and filing police cases. Report transcription will improve in 2000 and beyond, due to the acquisition of a new digital dictation system. This will improve the speed and effectiveness with which police reports are recorded and accessed.

The Training Bureau coordinates recruit training, in-service training and firearms training for all department staff. In conjunction with the Sedgwick County Sheriff, Police operates a Training Center in north Wichita. Expenses are generally split 75 / 25 percent between the City and County. The facility also functions as a back-up emergency communications center. Annually, an average of 40 police recruits are trained, in addition to coordinating over 20,000 hours of in-service training for commissioned personnel.

The Training Bureau also provides firearms training at the Joint Law Enforcement Firearms Training Facility. Costs of the facility

are shared equally between the Police Department and the Sedgwick County Sheriff. The facility provides both live fire training, and simulated training through the use of a FireArms Training Simulator.

The Special Operations Bureau is responsible for the Air Section, the Traffic Section; the Warrant Office and other units comprised of officers permanently assigned to duties, such as the eight person Bomb Squad that handles ordnance disposal throughout the region; the highly trained Special Weapons and Tactics team of 15 officers available for high risk, violent or hostage situations; a 12-member honor guard that represents the department and City at special events, and the 12 member Mounted Unit, available for special events such as the annual River Festival. In addition, the Bureau also coordinates the chaplain program

The Air section operates two Schweizer Model 300 helicopters. Three commissioned positions and one mechanic are assigned full-time to helicopter duty.



The department operates two helicopters over 1,000 hours annually to search for suspects, monitor events, track fleeing criminals and variety of other duties.

In an average year, nearly 1,000 flight hours will be provided. The helicopter provides air support during automobile chases allowing ground officers to use less aggressive pursuit tactics. Other services include searching for fleeing suspects and missing persons.

The Traffic Section, composed of 73 positions, is responsible for enforcing traffic ordinances in Wichita. The section includes 43 commissioned positions that currently operate from both cars and motorcycles.

In an effort to target enforcement efforts at high-risk locations, the traffic section has implemented the NOTE (Neighborhood Oriented Traffic Enforcement) system. This system, with accident and fatality information prepared by Planning and Research staff, attempts to focus enforcement and deterrence activities. Traffic officers also respond to neighborhood complaints, by conducting traffic enforcement activities in areas identified by citizens.

Selected Performance Measures				
	1998	1999	2000	2001
DUI arrests per 1,000 population	7.94	7.61	7.60	7.60
Injury accidents per 1000 population	9.95	10.03	9.80	9.60
Traffic citations per 1,000 population	251	260	260	260

The investigation of accidents is a primary responsibility of the Traffic Section, although beat officers will occasionally assist. Police maintains a staff of 19 civilian Traffic Safety Officers who are tasked exclusively with accident investigation. In addition, two detectives are assigned to focus on fatal accident investigations.



The Wichita Police Department's DUI Enforcement Unit targets drunk drivers in an effort to reduce traffic fatalities. The 11 officers work in conjunction with BAT Van operators.

Police also maintain a DUI enforcement unit which focuses on DUI prevention and apprehension. Eight civilians operate four Breath Alcohol Testing (BAT) vans that are used to conduct field testing of suspected drunk drivers. Periodically, the vans are used in checklanes.

The Warrant Office, transferred from Municipal Court in 2000, works in close coordination with Planning and Research, SPIDER and beat officers in seeking to apprehend persons with City warrants. The section includes eight commissioned Warrant Officers, in addition to civilian support staff.

Police Department Budget Summary					
	1999 Actual	2000 Adopted	2000 Revised	2001 Adopted	2002 Approved
Personal Services	35,736,914	36,679,290	39,757,880	41,117,870	43,060,200
Contractual Services	4,256,630	4,293,360	4,330,440	4,354,220	4,397,780
Commodities	632,482	643,090	610,280	607,370	607,470
Capital Outlay	21,057	13,880	0	0	0
Other	265,576	4,643,140	720,050	1,070,510	1,135,510
Total Police Department Expenditures	40,912,659	46,272,760	45,418,650	47,149,970	49,200,960
COPS Universal Grant	2,068,553	814,530	153,000	0	0
Local Law Enforcement Block Grant	768,006	0	0	0	0
Narcotics Seizure Funds	194,562	0	677,880	0	0
Other Grant Funds	127,117	0	179,230	272,480	286,300
General Fund	40,912,660	46,272,760	45,418,650	47,149,970	49,200,960
Total Police Resources	44,070,898	47,087,290	46,428,760	47,422,450	49,487,260
Position Summary					
Total commissioned	626	634	634	634	634
Total full-time civilians	209	204	206	204	204
Total part time civilians	4	4	4	4	4
Total FTE	838	840	842	840	840